

THE ARCHBISHOP PORTER MEMORIAL, B O M B A Y.

"THE Archbishop Porter, S.J., Memorial Fund" Committee in Bombay are in hopes that the numerous friends of the late Archbishop will help them to make the Fund a success. The best of his devoted life was spent in England, where his immense activity and talent for guidance brought him into grateful personal relation with gentle and simple all over the country. His old Stonyhurst pupils, those who owe so much to his labours at St. Francis Xavier's, Liverpool, the Convents where he gave retreats, the numberless individuals in every rank of society who derived comfort and light from his great good sense, will doubtless welcome the opportunity to rally round his memory and help us to make the memorial a signal token of affectionate regard. Though he had been only a short time amongst us, his manly character, his total freedom from anything like cant, his geniality and *savoir faire* won for him many friends among all castes and creeds in this country. In the midst of a society where Catholic principles are not welcome guests he had already acquired an influence which has not ceased to be a topic of wonder. The Catholic community here is sparing no effort to bring the subscription lists up to a substantial sum, and they did not invite the co-operation of England till they had themselves started the fund with handsome contributions. Dr. Porter's death is well known to have been mostly due to the unwholesome house and locality where he was obliged to live, so that all our efforts are directed to rescue his successors in this see from a similar fate by providing them a suitable residence in a salubrious quarter of the town. It seems to us that no form of memorial would be more in keeping than this with Dr. Porter's practical and unselfish character. We earnestly hope that some of his influential friends in London and Liverpool will form themselves without delay into auxiliary committees co-operating with us for so laudable a purpose. Pending the formation of these committees, it may be well to note that the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in London and Bombay receives subscriptions, and that the Honorary Treasurers are

THE VERY REV. T. DALHOFF, S.J., Ad., Apostolic of Bombay.
T. S. HAMILTON, Esq., C.S., Ahmednagar, The Deccan, India.
J. P. BARRY, M.B. (Trin. Coll. Dub.), I.M.D., Hon. Sec.,
The Archbishop Porter, S.J. Memorial Fund.
Bombay, All Saints' Day, 1889.

ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL, MASTERTON.

(*Wairarapa Daily*, December 21.)

THE distribution of prizes in connection with the annual examination of St. Patrick's School took place yesterday morning.

The chair was occupied by Mr. W. Lowes (Chairman of the Town Lands Trustees). There were present—Dr. Watters, Messrs McEwen (representing the Town Lands Trust), A. R. Bunny, A. Stempa, several parents and friends of the children, and Fathers T. and J. McKenna.

The children, who all looked bright and clean, were ranged round the schoolroom. In the centre was a table covered with specimens of needlework and knitting. In front of the chairman was a table covered with a choice selection of books suitable and for the purpose of presentation to the successful scholars. Bouquets of flowers helped to set off the various tables.

Dr. Watters, of St. Patrick's College, who undertook the examination of the school, addressed the scholars, and drew attention to certain items he had referred to in his report. He urged the scholars to devote their time and give their earnest attention to the subjects in which it was shown they were not so strong as they should be. He pointed out the present was the time for laying in a store of knowledge to carry them successfully, through life and urged those who had not drawn a prize not to be discouraged thereby, but to apply themselves more diligently to their lessons. His remarks met with frequent applause. He then read the following report:—

"EXAMINATION OF THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL, MASTERTON.

"At the request of the Rev. Father McKenna, Parish Priest of Masterton I have examined the children attending the Catholic School. Sixty-three children presented themselves for examination, and during two days these were passed in review in the different subjects. The course embraces in the high classes, besides Christian Doctrine, reading and spelling, grammar, geography, history and English composition, while in the lower classes instruction is confined to catechism, reading, spelling, and table figures. As I have furnished Rev. Father McKenna with the notes of each pupil in the different specialities, together with the percentage of marks reached by each class, it will suffice to make here a few general remarks. The Christian Doctrine is well taught, some pupils reaching a very high average, while even the youngest evince a good knowledge of their prayers, and the essential truths and precepts of religion. Very good answering was given in reading and spelling. Geography is very fairly known, especially by the fourth class, whose answers in this subject closely reached the satisfactory average of 80 per cent. A good beginning has been made in English composition with same results. English grammar is fairly known in the elements; the pupils, however, in the highest class rise even to some of the difficulties of syntax. In arithmetic the lower classes show a marked improvement, indicative of much care and trouble, displaying safe possession of tables, weights and measures, and the elements of numbers. The higher classes in arithmetic are still weak, and must, if they wish to maintain the honour of their school, devote to this subject closer attention. I found the school well kept, the pupils neat and cleanly dressed, and all around a general air of order and method, which go far to imprint on the pupils, who represent the school, a special and lasting character for good. The teacher, Mrs. Carrick, has shown great zeal for her children, and has brought the year to a satisfactory conclusion. Felix J. Watters, S.M., D.D., Rector St. Patrick's College, Wellington."

The report was received with rounds of applause.

Father J. McKenna said before proceeding with the prizes he

must thank Dr. Watters for the report just presented. He knew very well when he invited that gentleman to examine and report upon the school he would do it thoroughly, and with a view to help to promote the good of the school and to make it a success. The report showed that he had not come simply to praise or pass lightly over matters that required serious attention. He had pointed out the weak parts, and it was for the scholars to set to work to remedy those faults. He (the speaker) hoped when Dr. Watters came up for the next annual examination he would find his advice had been appreciated, and that the subjects that proved weak with some this year would be quite up to the standard of other subjects in which they had passed so favourably. He must thank Mr. Lowes for himself and on behalf of the parent; for undertaking the work of distributing prizes. It was a serious duty to undertake where all expected prizes, and but a limited number obtained them, to keep order and good feeling in such a gathering. Their thanks were due to the Town Lands Trustees, of which body Mr. Lowes was Chairman, and Mr. McEwen, who was present, one of their number. Their school had been treated in a very generous way by that body, and its members had shown an active interest in the welfare of the scholars, not only in allotting money for prizes but also in distributing the same to the children, as was noticeable by the presence of two of their number that day (applause). He was aware that, unfortunately, the present was the last year that money could be obtained from the same source for the same object, the fund being devoted to scholarships, but they could not complain, as their pupils had equal chance of competing for those scholarships as the children of other schools (applause). He hoped the day was not far distant when a student from St. Patrick's school would compete and gain such scholarship (applause). In regard to the prizes, as a matter of course where the number was limited and so many competed, there would be some disappointment. If such were not the case the prizes would prove but gifts, instead of a reward of merit. The prizes they were about to give were of a substantial character, equal to those of any primary school. Those who were not successful this year must not despair, but try and do better next year, and by attention and application put themselves ahead of the present prize-takers.

Mr. Lowes expressed the great pleasure he felt in undertaking the duty so kindly asked of him by Father McKenna. He was very glad of the honour. It was the first time in connection with St. Patrick's school he had been called upon to undertake such, and he was going to say that he hoped it would not be the last (applause). He had listened to the report of Dr. Watters with exceeding pleasure. In attendance he was aware that some children had not the advantage others had in being able to attend every day and with punctuality. Some also were not quite so bright as others in picking up their learning and consequently their records were not so good as those able always to attend and better gifted. To those students he would say don't despair; perseverance would go a great way to overcome any disadvantages (applause). He could only re-echo the hopes expressed by Dr. Watters that the defects pointed out by him would be overcome next year. He expressed himself as highly pleased with the bright, intelligent appearance of the children and also with their conduct, which reflected great credit upon their parents, their teacher, Mrs. Carrick and on Father McKenna. He then addressed a few earnest words to the children upon the necessity of taking hold of the present advantages at their disposal to thus gain knowledge so as to become intelligent men and women capable of occupying positions of responsibility in their future life. If they neglected the advantages now offered, the same opportunity would never be theirs again. There was one thing Dr. Watters had pointed out. Those children who gave the best replies in their examination were most punctual and always in attendance at school. On the other hand the careless attendants passed unsatisfactorily. He urged them to try and be present every lesson time as one day's absence gave the others that much extra advantage and to the non-punctual ones he would say get up earlier in the morning if you have any work to do for your mothers, so as not to lose the precious hours of school (applause). He expressed his gratification at the reference made to himself and co-trustee, Mr. McEwen, but he could answer them that anything the Town Lands Trustees had done in providing them with prizes was nothing more than their duty, and no more than what the school was entitled to. Certain provision had been made in the early days of the settlement of the district for encouraging education irrespective of creed, and they were now reaping the advantage of it *pro rata* with other schools of the district. Although assistance would not be continued to them in the shape of prizes or picnics, they would be able to take advantage of the provisions of the new Town Lands Trust Bill for grants for scholarships (applause).

Father McKenna said he would take the present opportunity to express regret that the gentlemen who presided at the distribution of prizes last year (Mr. A. W. Renall) was not able to be with them on the present occasion. Father Tom had waited upon him a few days ago to invite him to be present, but he was unfortunately absent from Masterton for a few days. He thought it only fair to make the allusion as Mr. Renall had taken an active interest in the school in the past.

The prizes were then distributed by the chairman, Mr. Lowes, who addressed to each recipient a few appropriate words. The respectful manner of the children and their polite "thank you, sir" on receipt of the award were very marked.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the Rev. J. McKenna presented to Dr. Watters, on behalf of the children, a very pretty library inkstand as an indication of their goodwill and a small token of their appreciation of the trouble he had taken in coming such a long distance for the benefit of the school.

The present was acknowledged by Dr. Watters in suitable terms. He said he should keep the gift as a lasting memorial of the kindly feeling and good-heartedness of the children of the school, Mrs. Carrick, their teacher, Father Tom, and all connected.

Three hearty cheers were given by the children, and they were dismissed by the chairman, who heartily wished them an enjoyable time until they re-assembled again.